

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 116**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Wesson, Washington,  
Wright, and Vincent**

(Principal coauthors: Senators Hughes and Murray)

January 24, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 116—Relative to Rosa Parks Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 116, as introduced, Wesson. Rosa Parks Day.

This measure would proclaim Rosa Park's birthday, Friday, February 4, 2000, and the first Monday following February 4 of each subsequent year, as Rosa Parks Day in California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913,  
2 in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona  
3 (Edwards) McCauley; and

4 WHEREAS, Rosa Louise McCauley married Raymond  
5 Parks on December 18, 1932; and

6 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1,  
7 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up  
8 her seat on a bus to a white man, and her stand for equal  
9 rights became legendary; and

10 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply  
11 with Montgomery's segregation law was the impetus for  
12 a boycott of Montgomery buses, led by Dr. Martin Luther

1 King, Jr., by approximately 42,000 African Americans for  
2 381 days; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 13, 1956, the United States  
4 Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law  
5 was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956,  
6 Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "Mother of  
9 the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement," because her  
10 refusal to surrender her seat in compliance with  
11 Montgomery's segregation law inspired the civil rights  
12 movement, which has resulted in the breakdown of  
13 numerous legal barriers and the lessening of profound  
14 discrimination against African Americans in this country;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The courage and conviction of Rosa Parks  
17 laid the foundation for equal rights for all Americans and  
18 for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

19 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was the first woman to join the  
20 Montgomery chapter of the NAACP, and was an active  
21 volunteer for the Montgomery Voters League; and

22 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks cofounded the Rosa and  
23 Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in 1987  
24 with Elaine Easton Steele to motivate and direct youth to  
25 achieve their highest potential through the "Pathways to  
26 Freedom" program; and

27 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is the recipient of many awards  
28 including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's  
29 highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal of  
30 Honor, the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a  
31 civilian, and the first International Freedom Conductor  
32 Award from the National Underground Railroad  
33 Freedom Center, among many other awards and honors;  
34 and

35 WHEREAS, Rosa Parks has dedicated her life to the  
36 cause of human rights and truly embodies the love of  
37 humanity and freedom; now, therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*  
39 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the  
40 State of California hereby declares her birthday, Friday,



1 February 4, 2000, and the first Monday following  
2 February 4 of each subsequent year, as Rosa Parks Day  
3 and urges all Californians to pay homage to this great  
4 American woman; and be it further  
5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
6 transmit copies of this resolution to the author for  
7 appropriate distribution.

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